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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION ON OAS, JUNE 02, 2005

1. On 6/02, the San Pedro Sula-based liberal daily "Tiempo" carried an op-ed by Pedro A. Brizuela entitled "Where the OAS is heading." "In the OAS Secretary General election we have witnessed events that haven't happened in the past. For the first time Latin America made a proposition to the U.S. for a peaceful change in inter-American relationships. It is true that there is no existing document but the message relies on the facts. The recent events indicate that the OAS is heading southward."

"South America is changing the region's politic view towards Latin America's dignity and democracy. We have been living until now in a false system; the so-called democracy is artificial. We are now harvesting this human misery where the government has become a cave of Ali Baba and its 40 officials."

"The North American government has become the 'big loser' by failing to place one of its unconditional candidates as Secretary General. But is the OAS a different institution?

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We all have witnessed that the OAS has been a docile instrument of the unconditional power of the U.S. to impose its authority to Latin America."

"There will be two very difficult aspects to change in the OAS: its mercenary conduct and bad reputation. The first aspect will be determined by the resistance of Latin American societies and Uncle Sam's pressure to impose its will on the region. The bad reputation will depend on the corrections of past mistakes. But what seems clearer each time is the changes in social policies. The OAS always blew north now the winds go south."

Palmer